

REMARKS

Applicants acknowledge receipt of the Office Action mailed April 19, 2005.

In the Office Action, the Examiner allowed claims 1-19 and indicated that the application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, and closed further prosecution of the application on the merits in accordance with the practice under *Ex Parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213. (*Office Action*, p. 3, ¶5 and p. 4, ¶9)

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter in claims 1-19.

By this Amendment, Applicants have amended the abstract and claims 3, 4, 12, and 13, as suggested by the Examiner, in order to place this application in condition for allowance. Applicants have also amended the specification to conform to the Examiner's suggested claim amendments.

CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing amendments and remarks, Applicants have addressed and resolved the formal matters indicated by the Examiner. Thus, the application is deemed to be *prima facie* in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicants request a formal Notice of Allowance.

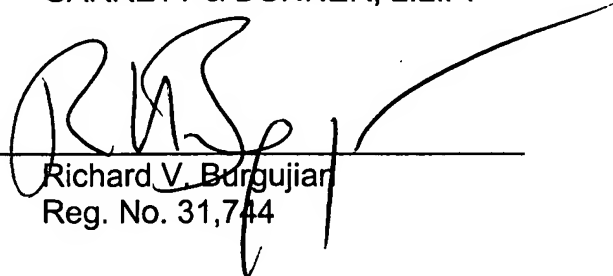
Please grant any extensions of time required to enter this response and charge any additional required fees to our deposit account 06-0916.

Respectfully submitted,

FINNEGAN, HENDERSON, FARABOW,
GARRETT & DUNNER, L.L.P.

Dated: May 26, 2005

By:



Richard V. Burgujian
Reg. No. 31,744

Attachment: Replacement Abstract